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The President's Daily Brief

July 27, 1976

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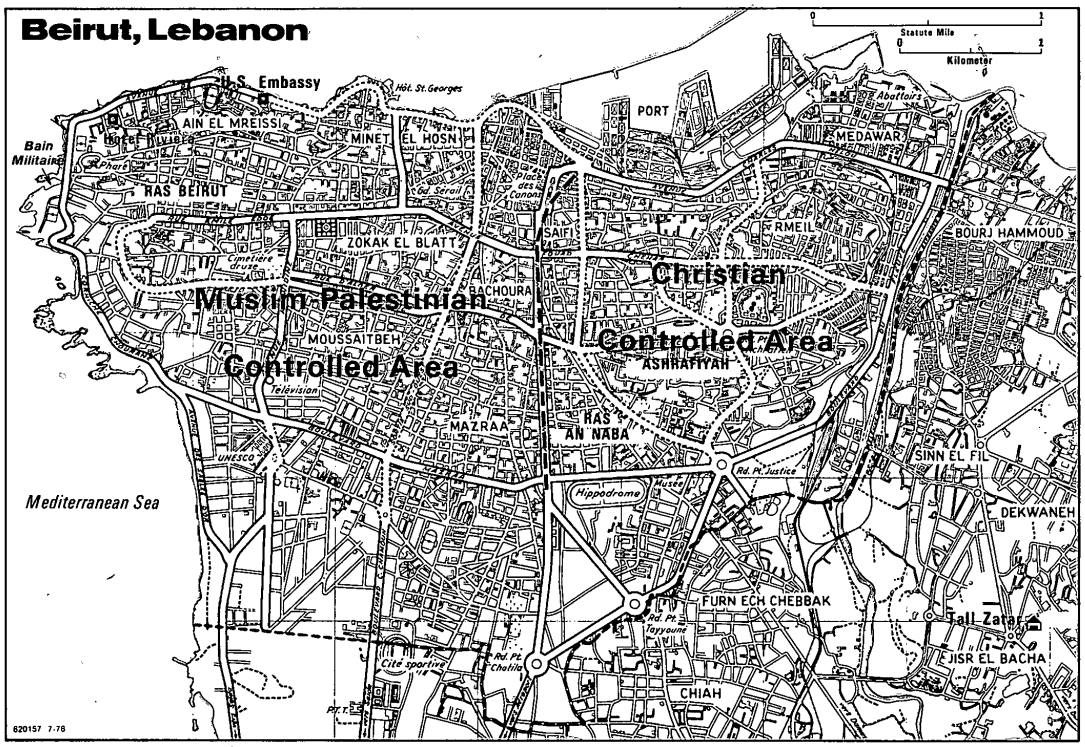

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LEBANON: *Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam and Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Arafat's adviser on foreign affairs, Qaddumi, were due to meet again yesterday to continue their negotiations for a Syria-PLO reconciliation.*

The US embassy in Damascus believes that these talks have entered a more serious stage, with Khaddam and Qaddumi now discussing a detailed draft agreement. The embassy, however, questions the degree of negotiating authority that Arafat gave Qaddumi and notes that, according to one local Palestinian source, Qaddumi may be operating within relatively narrow guidelines.

A Palestinian spokesman in Damascus said yesterday that some progress has been made on minor points, but the two sides are far apart on major issues. 25X1

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Meanwhile, Libyan Premier Jallud is said to have returned yesterday from Damascus to Beirut, where he apparently hopes to continue to try to mediate a cease-fire.

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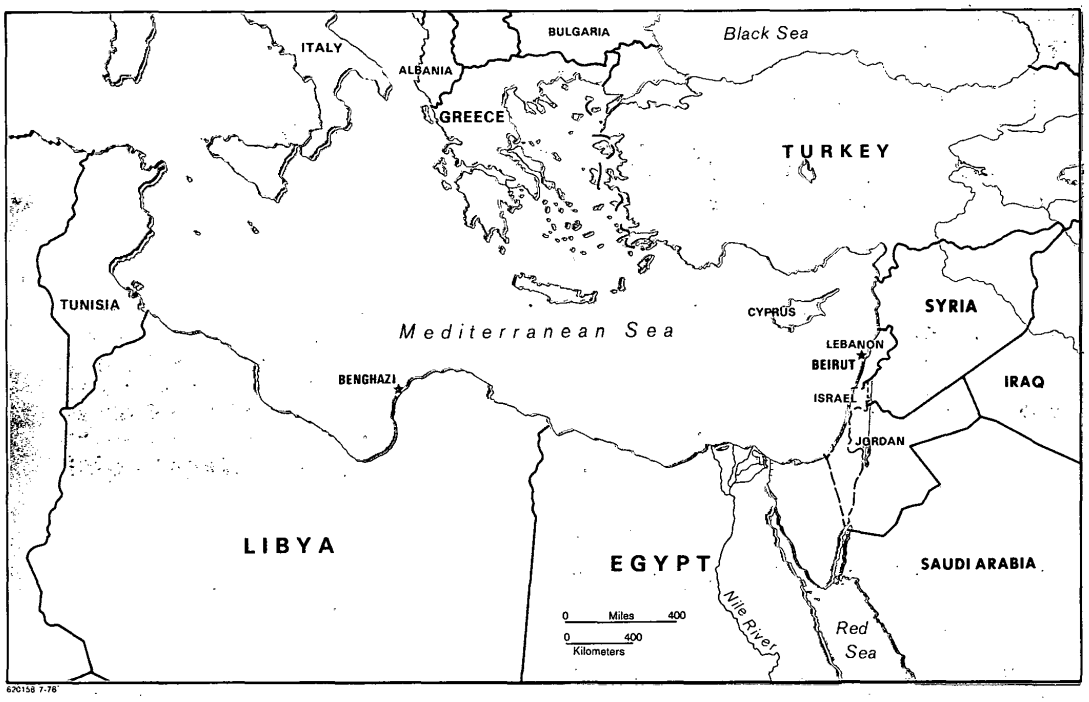

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Relatively heavy fighting continued yesterday in Beirut's eastern suburbs.

The Christians kept up their shelling of Tall Zatar. We cannot confirm Christian claims that 100 of the camp's defenders have surrendered. Fighting also was reported around the nearby Shia Muslim district of Nabaa.

Military activity remains at a low level elsewhere in Lebanon. There is sporadic shelling in the mountains east of Beirut, and Syrian forces are shelling Palestinian and leftist positions near a refugee camp in the north.

USSR-LEBANON: *Soviet naval units in the Mediterranean yesterday and early this morning maintained low-level surveillance of US naval units off Lebanon.*

A Soviet frigate, a destroyer, and a minesweeper monitored the US amphibious force assigned to the evacuation. Early this morning, a destroyer was trailing the US attack carrier America and three escorting frigates.

A frigate has been monitoring the US carrier Nimitz located southwest of Crete.

The main Soviet naval force in the Mediterranean, including the aircraft carrier Kiev, is moving west from a position north of Benghazi, Libya and has not participated in the surveillance of US ships.

The remaining major Soviet naval group in the area remains in the Gulf of Sollum in the Egyptian-Libyan border area.

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EGYPT-LIBYA: *We have detected no new military movements near the Egyptian-Libyan border since the weekend, but a troop convoy of over 100 trucks reported moving north toward Alexandria on Sunday may be en route to the border area.*

Libya's President Qadhafi is showing concern over the Egyptian troop buildup. In a speech publicized over the weekend, Qadhafi attributed the Egyptian military moves to a "grudge" President Sadat bears against the Libyans because oil has made them prosperous. Qadhafi seemed to be appealing for loyalty and trying to head off possible dissidence in eastern Libya, where tribesmen have never supported him.

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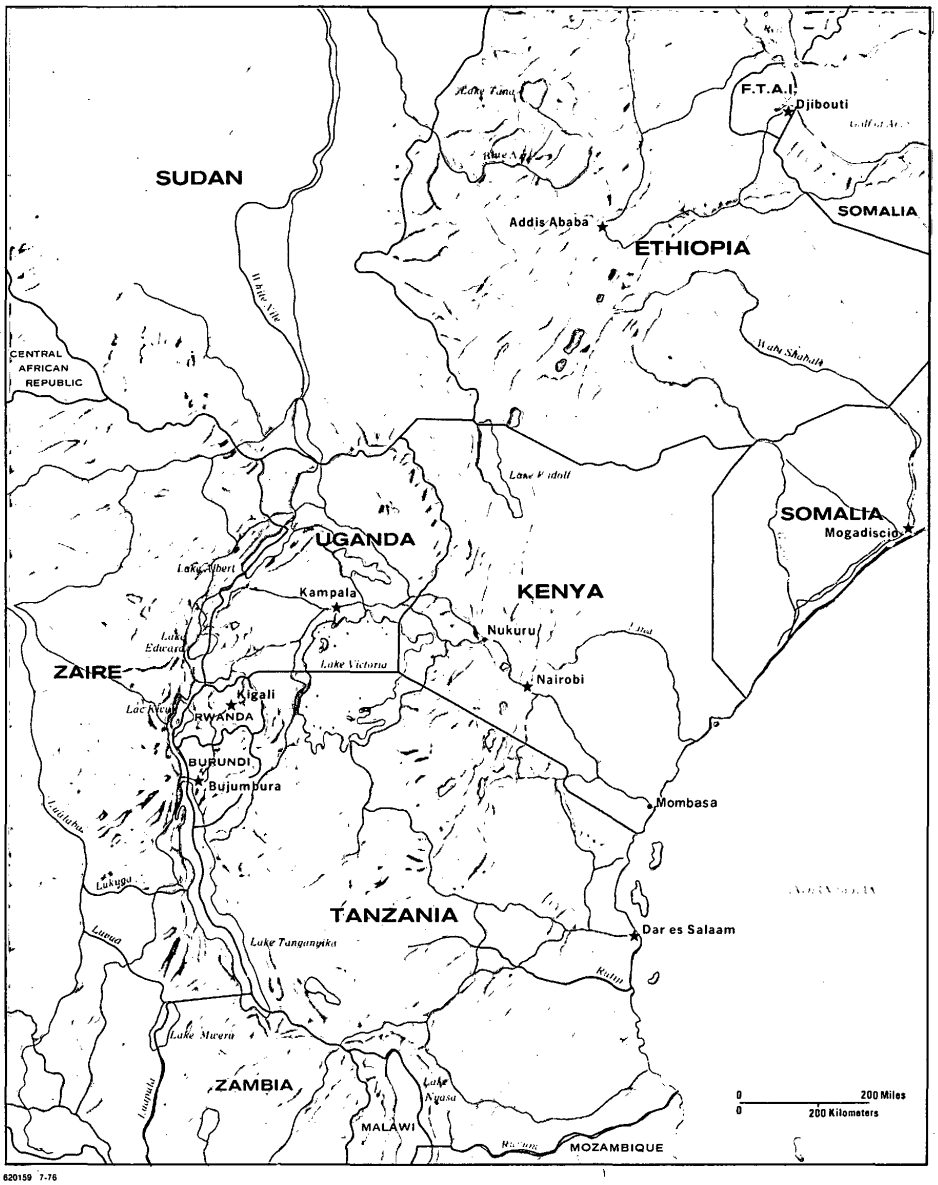

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The Libyan leader apparently does not believe that Egypt poses an imminent military threat. He gave Cairo until September 1--the seventh anniversary of his takeover--to "come to its senses." He said that if he detects no change in the Egyptian attitude by then, he will break diplomatic relations.

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KENYA-UGANDA: *Kenyan military officials expect a Ugandan air strike this week against Nairobi or Nakuru, where President Kenyatta spends much of his time.*

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Ugandan units are feeling the effects of Kenyan economic restrictions. An important ordnance depot lost communications late last week because of power stoppages, and army headquarters has ordered all units to conserve fuel and restrict vehicle traffic.

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The Kenyan press continues to claim that Amin faces serious domestic problems, including army mutinies and an assassination attempt last weekend. Amin has frequently experienced army indiscipline and attempts to unseat him, but we have no confirmation of the latest Kenyan reports.

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The Kenyans have asked the US embassy to give as little publicity as possible to the current visits of US military units to Kenya.

They also requested that the visits be officially described as routine. The Kenyans, who last week said the US presence has helped deter Amin, are apparently concerned that the visits could damage Kenya's non-aligned credentials.

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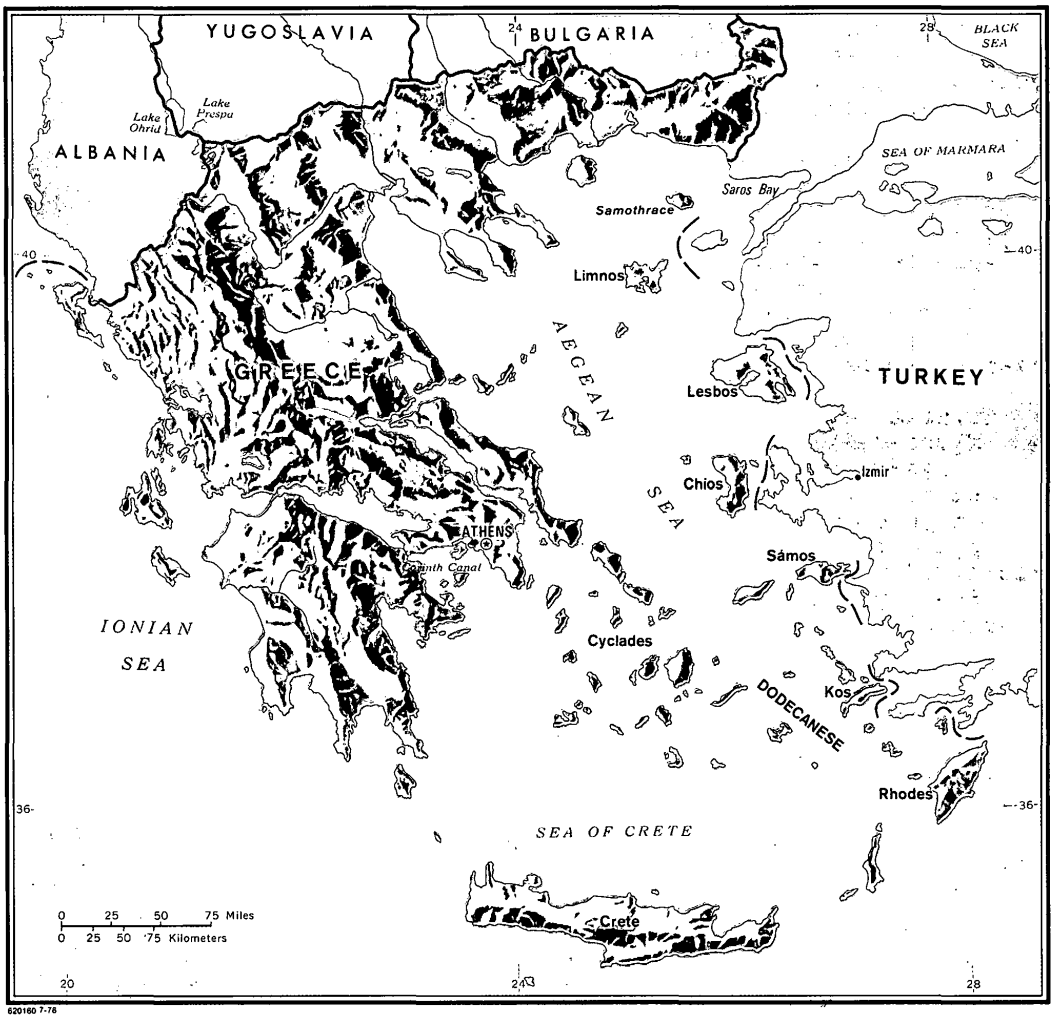

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NOTES

High-level Greek-Turkish *contacts recently have failed to defuse the potentially explosive situation in the Aegean surrounding the voyage of the Turkish research ship, Sismik I.*

Talks began on July 21 at Greek initiative, but by July 24 positions had hardened on both sides. The Greeks were insisting that in return for guarantees of safe passage, Turkey would have to give Greece advance notice of the ship's entire planned course of action. Athens also was demanding that a Greek naval ship be allowed to escort or closely "shadow" the Sismik I.

According to Turkish foreign ministry secretary general Elekdag, Ankara rejected the Greek position, maintaining that approval would imply Turkish recognition of the Greek claim to virtually the entire Aegean seabed. The talks broke off, and there apparently are no plans for another meeting.

If Athens and Ankara decide to meet again, there would appear to be adequate time to try to iron out the problem before the Sismik I enters disputed waters. According to Elekdag, the ship is still in the Sea of Marmara. It may sail for Saros Bay as early as July 28 and spend ten days there before entering international waters near the Greek island of Samothrace. Lacking any assurances of safe passage, the ship would be sailing under military protection when it left Turkish territorial waters.

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Cuban *Prime Minister Fidel Castro reiterated in a speech last night that Cuban forces would remain in Angola until that country's military becomes more capable.*

He added that troops and equipment not now needed are being withdrawn but gave no hint of the numbers or the rate involved. Castro assured visiting Angolan President Agostinho Neto that Cuban forces would return if needed and that Cuba plans broad cooperation with Angola. Neto stressed his need for Cuban technicians.

The composition of the Angolan party suggests that considerable planning for the future Cuban role in Angola probably took place.

The delegation included senior political, economic, and military officers, as well as representatives of local governments, unions, and mass organizations.

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The arrest yesterday of former Japanese *prime minister Tanaka in connection with the Lockheed scandal could cause serious divisions in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.*

Party leaders tried to oust Prime Minister Miki last month because they feared he might use the disclosure of Lockheed information to damage his political opponents, including Tanaka. [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted]

Miki may believe that taking a strong anticorruption position is his best chance of staying in office [redacted] 25X1

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Tanaka's political career is finished, but if he implicates other party leaders, the party will clearly face a crisis.

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